I TOOK IT TO HEART EVERY TIME SHE'D SAY "I HATE YOU."
I HATE YOU...
I DON'T KNOW ANY-MORE!
I DESPISE YOU!!
BUT AS IT TURNS OUT... THAT WAS NEVER THE CASE ALL ALONG.
I LIED.
WHAT THE?

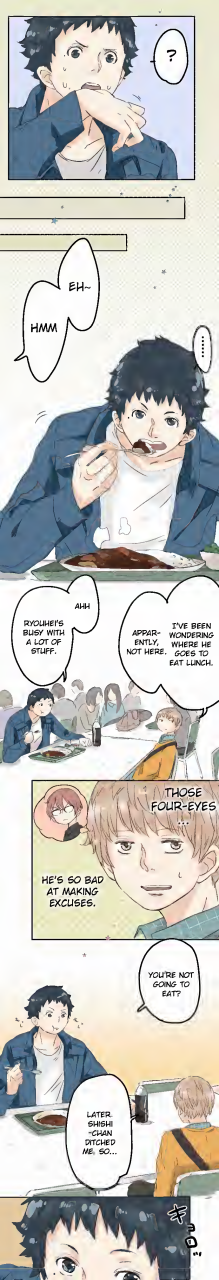
IS SHE HOT-HEADED OR CUTE, I CAN'T TELL.
THAT PANG I FELT JUST NOW...
IT'S KIND OF AMAZ-ING...
MAN. SHE PUT ME IN SUCH A PANIC. WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WITH YOU, CHIYO?
BUT I DIDN'T REALIZE SHE COULD BE SO ADORABLE, TOO.

Koi Inu

Chapter 9: Secrets

EHH?
THAT GIRL JUST NOW WAS YOUR CHILDHOOD FRIEND, HUH?
YOU HAVE QUITE THE...
ABNORMAL FETISH, HM?

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU HAVE A THING FOR MIDGETS
.....
AH!
AND DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT YOU WANTED TO BE MY HEIGHT?
BETTER BE CAREFUL, IGA-CHAN.
EVEN IF YOU'RE CHILDHOOD FRIENDS, ONCE IT DEVELOPS INTO LOVE,
YOU CAN'T GO BACK TO THE WAY THINGS WERE BEFORE WHEN YOU BREAK UP.


?
EH~
HMM
.....
AHH
RYOUHEI'S BUSY WITH A LOT OF STUFF.
APPARENTLY, NOT HERE.
I'VE BEEN WONDERING WHERE HE GOES TO EAT LUNCH.
THOSE FOUR-EYES ...
HE'S SO BAD AT MAKING EXCUSES.
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO EAT?
LATER, SHISHI-CHAN DITCHED ME. SO...
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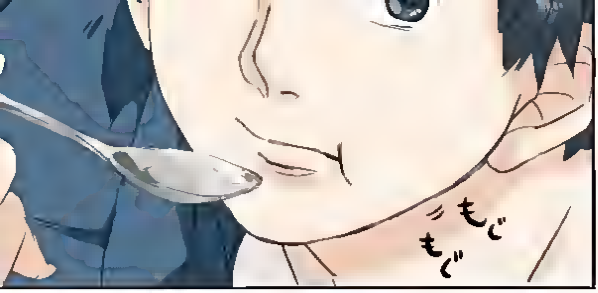
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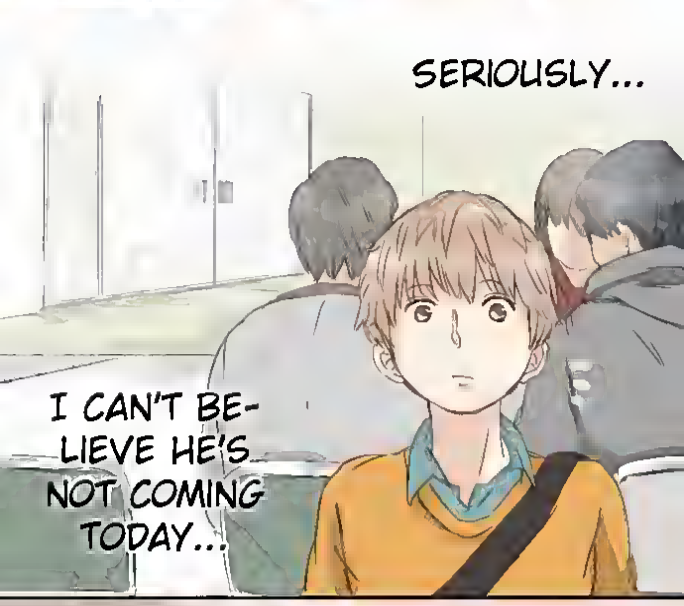
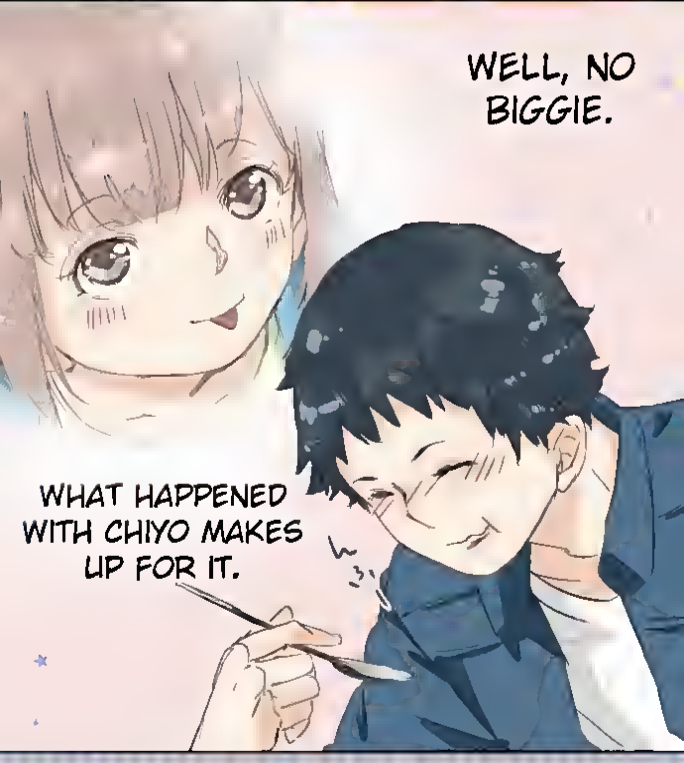

SERIOUSLY...
I CAN'T BE-
LIEVE HE'S
NOT COMING
TODAY...


WELL, NO
BIGGIE.
WHAT HAPPENED
WITH CHIYO MAKES
UP FOR IT.

YOU
DISGUST
ME,
IGA-CHAN
...
I CAN
TELL
EXACTLY
WHAT
HE'S
THINK-
ING!

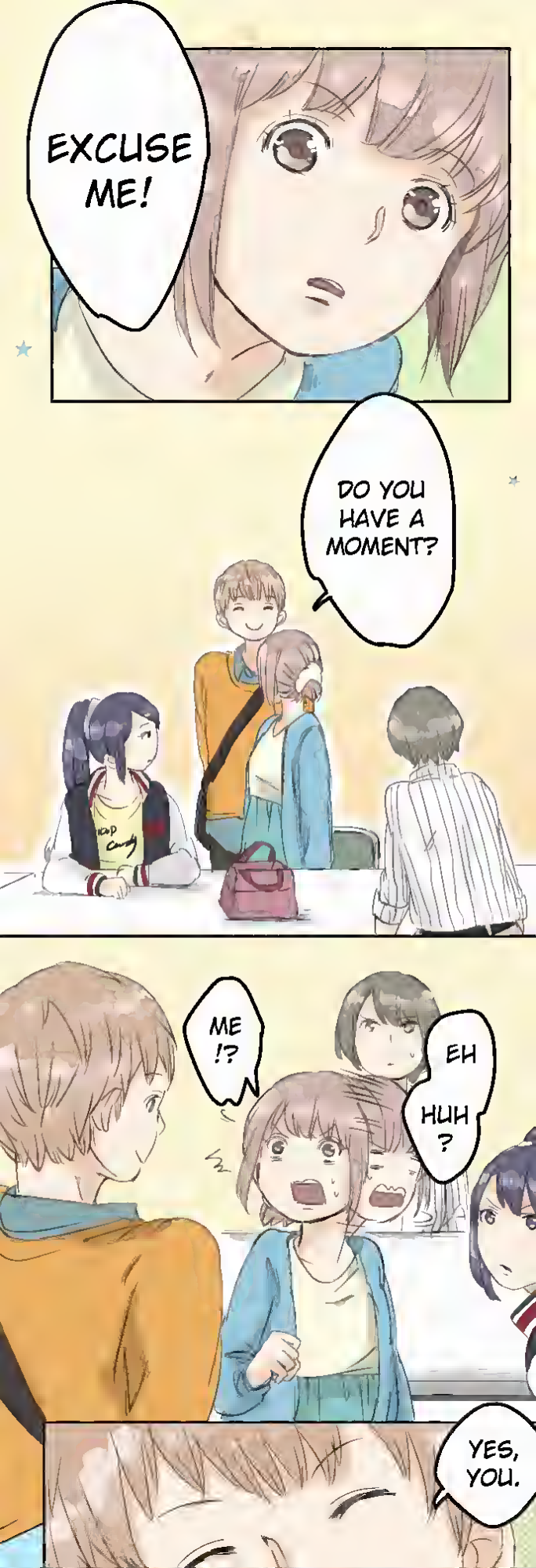
HEY, IGA-CHAN
DO YOU MIND IF I ASK YOU SOME-THING?
YOU ATTENDED HIGH SCHOOL IN KANAGAWA, RIGHT?
WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO COME TO A RURAL COLLEGE LIKE THIS?
DIDN'T YOU GET OFFERS FROM PLACES LIKE Y UNIVERSI-TY AND X COLLEGE?
!?

THE GUY WHO MADE IT TO THE INTER-HIGHS EVERY YEAR FOR THREE YEARS.
IN THE SHOOT-ING GUARD, A FAST RUNNER, A LONG-RANGE SHOOT-ER.
THAT'S YOU, IGARASHI SHUN.
YOU STILL HAVEN'T RE-COVERED FROM YOUR LEG INJURY?

カラン
W-
WHAT ARE YOU... THAT'S QUITE THE IMAGINATION YOU'VE GOT.
YOU REALLY SURPRISED ME THERE...
STOP PLAYING. I'M TALKING NONFICTION.
I WONDER WHAT SORT OF TALENTS YOU'RE HIDING.
LIFE REALLY LOSES MEANING WHEN YOU CAN'T USE THEM ANYMORE, DOESN'T IT?
ARE YOU...
TRYING TO MAKE FUN OF ME RIGHT NOW?
NOT AT ALL, MY FRIEND.
I JUST THOUGHT IT WAS INTERESTINGS TO FIND SOMEONE AS SPECIAL AS YOU IN A PLACE LIKE THIS. I'M A CURIOUS GUY.

LOOKS LIKE I GOT ON HIS BAD SIDE.
WHY DOES KITAMOTO KNOW ABOUT MY HIGH SCHOOL PAST...
DID HE ASK ME TO JOIN THE BASKETBALL TEAM BECAUSE HE KNEW?
IT'S NOT LIKE I'VE COMPLETELY STOPPED PLAYING, EITHER.
HM...

OH I GET IT NOW...
THE REAL REASON HE CAME HERE WAS TO SEE HIS CHILDHOOD FRIEND AGAIN...
EHH
SHE'S QUITE WELL-ENDOWED, ISN'T SHE IGA-CHAN?
!

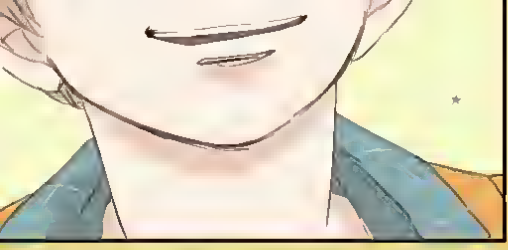

EXCUSE ME!
DO YOU HAVE A MOMENT?
ME!?
EH HUH?
YES, YOU.

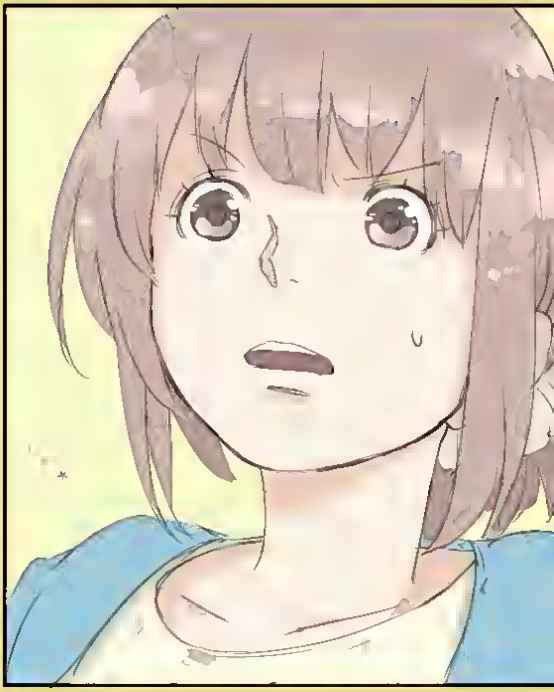
IT'S BEEN ABOUT EIGHT MONTHS SINCE THEN.
SINCE I'M DOING REHABILITATION, IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE I CAN...
OH, IGARASHI!
SHISHIJIMA
HUH? WEREN'T YOU WITH RYOUHEI?
AHH

I DITCHED HIM.
EH?
BY THE WAY
HAS HE SAID ANYTHING RECENTLY ABOUT ME?
NOT REALLY?
HE SAID SOMETHING OUT OF LINE AGAIN, DIDN'T HE?
EVEN THOUGH HE'S SHORT, HE'S GOT A BIG HEAD.
SHISHIJIWA
BUT WHY IS IT ONLY AROUND ME... THAT HE GETS SO AGGRESSIVE?
...SOUND LIKE HE'S GIVING YOU AN EXTREMELY HARD TIME.

THOSE TWO...
FROM FAR AWAY THEY LOOK LIKE SIBLINGS.
WONDER WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT.

.....
... NO WAY!!
A CON-FES-SION!?





to be continued...

THE CAROLUS MENGUS TRANSLATION GROUP